



LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO

October 6, 2016
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

P.O. BOX 85524
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MEMBERS PRESENT

Eyra Leeper – District 1
Joel San Juan – District 1
Carmelita Trujillo – District 1
Rebecca Hernandez, Member-at-Large (ADS) – District 2
Michael Matthews – District 2
Jenifer Mendel, 1st Vice Chair – District 2
Deanne George – District 3
Colin MacKinnon – District 3
Ed Weiner – District 3
Jerry Hall – District 4
John Sturm, 2nd Vice Chair – District 4
Judith Yates, Member-at-Large (MH) – District 4
Phil Deming, Chair – District 5
Richard McGaffigan – District 5
K.C. Strang – District 5

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Tom Behr – District 4
Supervisor Dave Roberts – BOS

STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Alfredo Aguirre, Director, County Behavioral Health Services Division
Traci Finch, Administrative Analyst III, County Behavioral Health Services Division

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) meeting was called to order by Phil Deming, Chairperson, at 3:34 pm at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, California 92101, Room 302/303.

II. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Members of the BHAB introduced themselves.

- Phil Deming introduced Carmelita Trujillo, the newly-appointed BHAB member representing District 1.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

ON MOTION of Joel San Juan, seconded by Mike Matthews, the BHAB approved the minutes of September 1 as written.

AYES: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 3

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Stewart, a peer representative for the members of Visions Clubhouse, was in attendance to renew their request for additional staffing and extra funding for peer specialists who are experienced with working with the homeless. Mr. Stewart explained that there has been a 50% increase in the membership

of Visions Clubhouse, with 25% being homeless individuals. He talked about their Restorative Justice Program which takes the form of a panel made up of the director, a peer specialist with peer counseling skills, and the Peer Advisory Group (PAG). The PAG, of which Mr. Stewart serves as Vice President, is a group of six Visions Clubhouse members selected by Mental Health America (MHA) staff. The PAG serves as both the representative voice of the members of Visions and as consultants to Visions staff on decisions affecting the members. The request for funding to staff a peer specialist with adequate experience is critical to the success of their Restorative Justice Program in meeting the needs of not only their homeless members but also parolees, another membership subgroup that has seen an increase.

V. PRESENTATION – Updates from Patient Advocate (Gregory E. Knoll, Esq.)

Phil Deming, Chair, introduced Greg Knoll, CEO and chief counsel specializing in health policy of the Legal Aid Society. Greg is also the head of their health law team known as the Consumer Center for Health Education and Advocacy (CCEA).

- The Consumer Center was created by consumers with the help of the County of San Diego and is the County's Title IX patient advocate for outpatient mental health services and SSI. Partners in this effort include Jewish Family Service Patient Advocacy, and John Sturm, a BHAB member who serves on their advisory board and gives input from a peer advocate perspective.
- Copies of CCEA'S 2015-16 Annual Report were available for those in attendance, and Greg Knoll highlighted some of their stats to date.
 - During the report year, the Consumer Center opened 2,995 total cases. 752 of those were for persons with psychiatric disabilities who had a physical health issue that they needed advocacy for.
 - Peer advocates opened 86 cases related to specialty mental health. The most common specialty mental health problems brought to them by their consumers involved quality of care issues such as long wait times, poor customer service, unprofessional behavior, difficulty obtaining medical records, and difficulty with medications.
- The Legal Aid Society as a whole opened nearly 11,000 cases. Over 30% of those were for persons with psychiatric disabilities.
- The SSI Advocacy Team opened 1,264 cases, and 1,052 of those (84%), were for mental health consumers.
 - Over the past 24 months, 605 consumers have been granted SSI benefits. Over 80% of those granted were mental health consumers, and over 50% were homeless.
 - In June, the SSI Advocacy Team was chosen as the Behavioral Health Director's Program of the Year and honored at the Behavioral Health Recognition Dinner.
 - A new pilot program has just been implemented called "SSI for children and their families." In the past 3 months, extensive outreach has been done to get this program up and running, and as a result the SSI team has 43 cases from all over the county, two children have been granted approval at the reconsideration stage, and they now have 25 applications which they have prepared and submitted.

For Outpatient Advocacy referrals, Greg Knoll can be reached at gek@ccea.org or at his direct personal line at (619) 471-2620.

VI. PRESENTATION – Drug Medi-Cal Update (Tabatha Lang)

Tabatha Lang, Chief, Quality Improvement for Behavioral Health Services, presented a PowerPoint on "Drug Medi-Cal Implementation Plan." Topics covered included:

- Description and Objective of the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS)
- System Changes
- Challenges
- Opportunities
- Implementation Plan
- Special Populations

- Alfredo summarized the timeline for implementation. By the end of October, BHS's goal is to present to the Agency executive team what the impact of DMC-ODC implementation will be financially and what the benefits are to the County, our consumers and the AOD population. BHS staff will notify the BHAB at the November meeting on the status and whether there has been a delay in implementation. If the County is given the green light to opt in and go forward, BHS will inform the Board of Supervisors through a Board Memo, and the County would then proceed with presenting the Implementation Plan and Rates to the State by December 1. After that, it will take about 60 days for the State to respond. In the interim, BHS would be looking into how we operationalize this organized delivery system, getting our providers certified and trained, etc. Once the contract with the State is signed, our goal is to start services on July 1.
- Judith Yates, chairperson of the BHAB Drug Medi-Cal Workgroup, spoke briefly about the work done by the workgroup and commended BHS staff for their assistance. She reminded the group to review the email sent to the BHAB on Monday which contained the final draft version of the DMC-ODC Implementation Plan and Appendices that will be submitted to the State if the County opts in to participate in the Waiver. Judith Yates also reiterated that the nature of the Implementation Plan is a blueprint for real implementation and makes the "how to" of getting to "real" implementation much more understandable.

Phil Deming requested that any questions for Tabatha Lang or the DMC Workgroup not addressed during the presentation should be submitted to Traci Finch, who will submit them for follow up.

VII. PRESENTATION – Update on Supported Employment Initiative (Betsy Knight)

Betsy Knight, Behavioral Health Program Coordinator with the Adult and Older Adult System of Care, introduced the BHAB to the County's various projects under the Supported Employment Initiative. For over 20 years the California Department of Rehabilitation has had a coordinated effort with Behavioral Health Services to provide employment supports, and in 2006 a secondary employment program came on to the Behavioral Health Services side called Employment Solutions. Both programs are contracted efforts to be able to provide employment opportunities for individuals; however, towards 2013 there became a higher need for employment supports throughout the entire system of care, not just within separated programs. In order to provide that level of service, there needed to be a technical assistance component added to existing contracts.

- Betsy Knight introduced Mario Becerra from San Diego Workforce Partnership (SWFP) who spoke on his agency's work under the Supportive Employment Technical Consultant Agreement.
 - For those with the lived experience of mental illness, employment can be crucial to recovery and wellness. Work brings with it the universal feelings of hope, self-determination, self-respect, social connections, responsibility and personal empowerment — tools that are critical to stability. For these reasons, it is essential that providers in the behavioral health community work toward maximizing employment opportunities for people with lived experience of mental illness.
 - In 2013, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency's Behavioral Health Services Division initiated the Supported Employment Initiative for the Adult and Older Adult System of Care. The contract for consulting services was awarded to the SWFP and the Corporation for Supportive Housing, which, in partnership with the County and numerous stakeholders, created a Five-Year Strategic Employment Plan (2014–2019). These efforts align with *Live Well San Diego*, the county's 10-year initiative to build a healthy, safe and thriving community. The overarching goal of the Strategic Employment Plan is to reduce stigma of mental illness while increasing employment opportunities for individuals with mental illness.
 - The stakeholders for this plan have transitioned into the Work Well Committee, which will guide its long-term implementation and focus on systemic data collection and evaluation. The Work Well Committee meets at the San Diego Workforce Partnership on the second Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m.

- The Work Well Committee reports to the Adult Behavioral Health Council every month on their community activities. Some of those activities include:
 - Conducting consumer focus groups to further identify barriers participants are facing regarding employment.
 - Employment specialists focus groups to identify some of the challenges they face with their workloads and the people they serve.
 - Employer socials convened quarterly throughout all regions of the County. On average about 20 individuals with lived experience attend along with about 4 employers per social. These informal settings generate discussion about challenges that the participants face in the employment sector because of their lived mental health experience.
 - Trainings with businesses and employers with the goal of reducing stigma of mental illness while increasing employment opportunities along with appropriate accommodations for individuals with lived experience of mental illness.

These efforts have resulted in a 1% increase over the last fiscal year in individuals with lived experience seeking and gaining employment.

- Melissa Tran, Program Manager for UPAC Noble Works, introduced the BHAB to this program.
 - Noble Works is an innovative supportive and subsidized employment program that aims to expand employment opportunities for Transition Age Youth (TAY) and Adult and Older Adult (AOA) individuals with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) throughout the County of San Diego.
 - Through collaboration among UPAC, Pathways and NAMI San Diego, Noble Works seeks to promote self-determination and empowerment by encouraging employment or business development in the areas of interest to the participant. Noble Works promotes awareness about mental health and co-occurring disorders and its impact on employment to create greater inclusion of individuals with mental health into the community.
 - Points covered in the PowerPoint presentation included:
 - Mission Statement
 - Targeted Population
 - Services and Supported Employment Services
 - Information Technology & Computer Skills Support
 - Education & Engagement of Businesses
 - Small Business Development Training & Assistance of Business Loan
 - Social Enterprise
 - Success Stories
 - Locations & Contact Information

Any questions not addressed during today's presentations can be submitted to Traci Finch for follow up.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Alfredo Aguirre, Director, Behavioral Health Services

- BHS Procurement Board Letter
 - Alfredo Aguirre gave a summary of the changes included in the final version of the October 4 Board of Supervisors docketed version included in BHAB packets.
- Community Engagement Forums Wrap Up (Dr. Danyte Mockus-Valenzuela)
 - Behavioral Health Services' community engagement forums have concluded for this fiscal year, and Dr. Mockus-Valenzuela presented a brief PowerPoint that gave an overview of the forum attendees and forum format, highlighted some of the early feedback given to date, upcoming specialty focus groups to be held late October, and operational planning alignment. Handouts were distributed describing the community planning process, the innovation projects cycle to date, and next steps.
 - Jerry Hall brought up the need for the community to understand the role of PERT (Police Emergency Response Team), especially in light of the recent event in El Cajon with the police and the individual who was killed and had a history of mental health challenges. Perhaps the

County can extend or enhance the contract with the consultants hired for the community engagement forums to conduct a focus group within the African-American community in Southeast San Diego, with an emphasis mental health, alcohol and drug abuse disorders. This is a segment of the population that is feeling very disjointed and not reaching out for services.

- Alfredo Aguirre explained that the County's Live Well Exchange initiative is an effort to bring together underserved communities and law enforcement around dispute resolution. In addition, in response to the tragedy in East County, Alfredo Aguirre, along with PERT, have reached out to community groups such as United Women of East Africa. A collaborative meeting will be set up with the goals of 1) developing better mutual understanding of the community on the role of PERT services and the variety of other County crisis response services, as well as 2) PERT, law enforcement and other providers coming to an understanding of the mental health challenges, needs and perceptions of our immigrant and refugee community. Alfredo Aguirre will report back to the BHAB the outcome of these meetings.
- Alfredo announced the retirement of BHS' long-term Receptionist, Pat Cuadra. Pat Cuadra worked in the Camino front office for more than 10 years, where she displayed exemplary customer service and had a real passion for the behavioral health consumers and clients we served.

IX. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Phil Deming, Behavioral Health Services Advisory Board Chair

- Report of the Nominating Committee – 2017 Slate of Executive Officers (Colin MacKinnon)
 - The BHAB Bylaws provide for establishing a Nominating Committee in September of each year. The following BHAB members were appointed to serve on the Nominating Committee: Eyra Leeper, Colin MacKinnon and K.C. Strang.
 - The task of the Nominating Committee is to select a recommended slate of 2017 Executive Officers which will be presented to the entire BHAB for election in November 2016. Bylaws state one Executive Officer shall be a Person in Recovery.
 - The recommended slate of officers to stand for election as 2017 Executive Committee Officers is as follows:
 - Chairperson – Phillip Deming
 - 1st Vice-Chairperson – John Sturm
 - 2nd Vice-Chairperson – Rebecca Hernandez
 - Member at Large representing the alcohol and substance abuse community – Jenifer Mendel
 - Member at Large representing the mental health community – Judith Yates
- Vote for Nominations in November
 - BHAB members will have a month to consider their vote. If the slate of officers as presented is not approved, then individual elections will be held.
- BHAB Fall Retreat – Saturday, 10/8
 - Final agenda was sent to BHAB members. 8:30 a.m. arrival with a 9:00 a.m. start time. As a Brown Act meeting, the public is invited to attend. As this will be a working meeting, BHAB members are encouraged to dress comfortably.

X. ADVOCATE REPORTING

- Mike Matthews will give a report next month.
- Rebecca Hernandez spoke about some of the activities taking place in her district and some of the functions she attended over the last month.
 - The Community Alliance for Healthy Minds forum was held at Cal State San Marcos on September 24 and was a huge success.
 - Three students in her community were lost to suicide last month, but she is thankful for the resources provided by the Suicide Prevention Council across the County that they were able to utilize.

- Happy to hear that the County Board of Supervisors voted to formally oppose Proposition 64 which would legalize marijuana in the State of California on November 8.
- Today was Red Ribbon kickoff across the County.
- The East County *Live Well San Diego* Substance Abuse Committee is hosting a forum next week called "You Think You Know Weed" for the community at large to understand the impact of marijuana on our communities. Rebecca Hernandez will send information to the BHAB through Traci Finch.

XI. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Judith Yates brought attention to the fact that the County has had its first flu death of the season and emphasized the importance of getting flu shot early.

XII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION of Judith Yates, seconded by Colin MacKinnon, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

AYES: All

Brown Act Procedure: *As required by California Government Code 54950 et seq. (Ralph M. Brown Act), a copy of the packet of information that was mailed to Behavioral Health Advisory Board members at the point of posting of this agenda has been placed at the reception desk at 3255 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108, for public inspection, and is available at the site of the meeting for public inspection. Members of the public wanting their own copy of the advance materials may request them under Government Code 6250 et seq. (Public Records Act) and receive them on payment of copying charges of \$0.20/page, and actual mailing charges, if mailing of the material is requested. If you are planning to attend and need special accommodations, you must call Jackson Alexander at (858) 505-6521, at least three days in advance of the meeting.*

Respectfully submitted,



Allison V. Williams, Secretary to the Director
Behavioral Health Services

Reviewed by,



Traci Finch, Administrative Analyst III
Behavioral Health Advisory Board Support Staff

Approved by,



Phillip R. Deming, Chairperson
Behavioral Health Advisory Board

**For BHAB documents, agenda, minutes and Director's Reports, please read or download from
the Network of Care Behavioral Health Advisory Board at:**

<http://sandiego.networkofcare.org/mh/content.aspx?id=257>